

ERIN GO BRAGH (IRELAND FOREVER):

PATRICK KEVIN TURLEY

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PCSO PRESIDENT, 1996-1997

Patrick Turley's story had me firmly hooked from the start. Two hours passed as if they were minutes as he reeled me in.

Patrick is the offspring of an Irish immigrant and a first generation Irish-American. His grandfather was in the Royal Irish Police Force and served during the 1917 Irish Revolution. Facing difficulty as a single parent (Patrick's grandmother died from complications of childbirth), his grandfather influenced Patrick's father, William James Turley, to enter the Catholic seminary. There, William studied to become a Brother (a teacher rather than a priest), which required strict celibacy. Fortunately for Patrick, however, his father left the program before taking his final vows.

At the age of 20, Patrick's father emigrated to New York, passing through Ellis Island. A few years later, he and a friend traveled by boat to San Diego through the Panama Canal. He decided Southern California would be his home. He met and married Margaret Mary McWeeney and they raised six children: Genevieve, Delia, Martin, Bill, Patrick, and John.

Patrick's older brothers were 10 and 12 years older and graduated from high school in the late



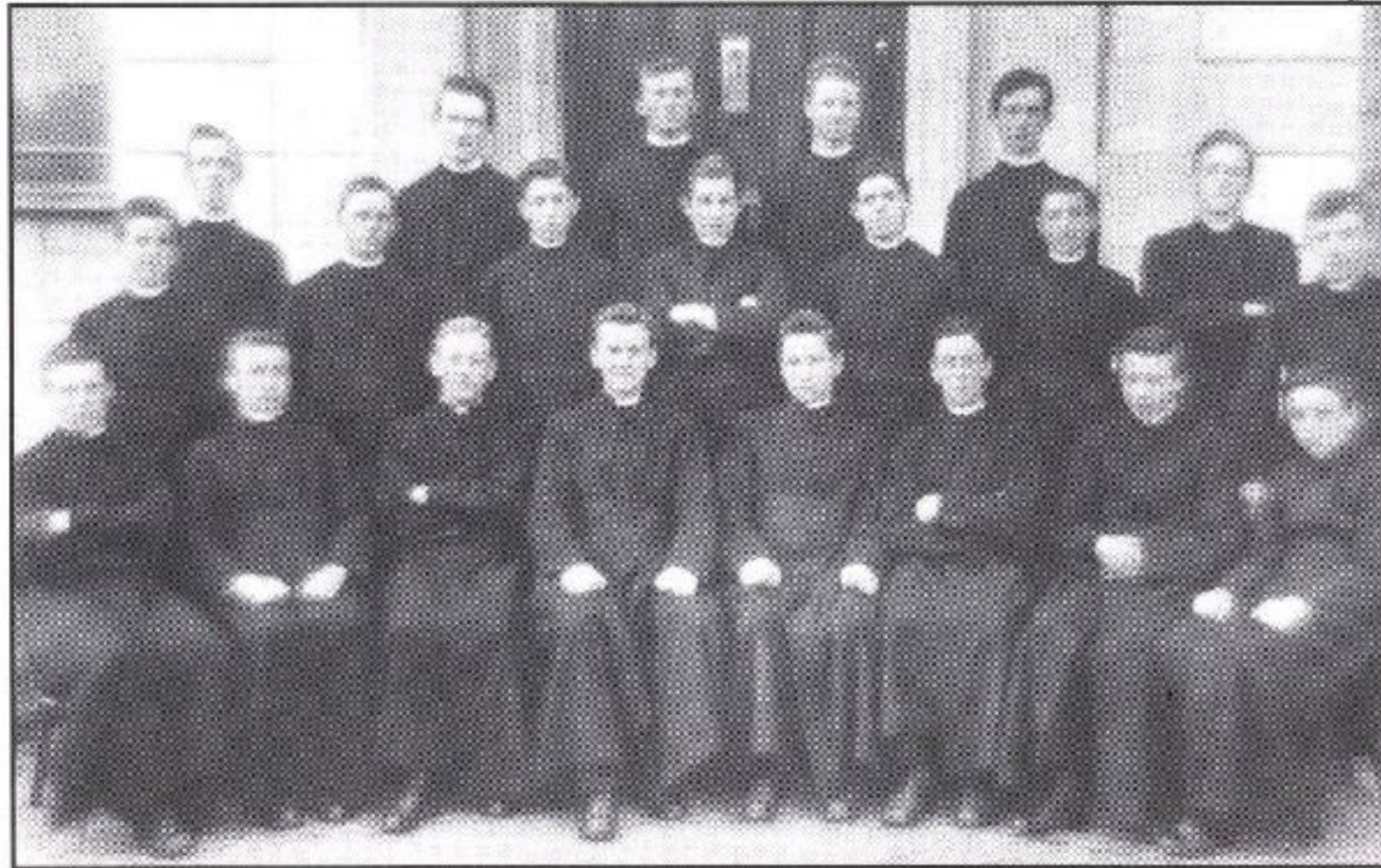
Patrick at age three with little brother John.

'50s during the birth of rock and roll. As in many Irish families, their mother encouraged music. Everyone but Patrick played the piano—Pat was more interested in singing the songs he heard on the radio. Surfing was the other major pastime for the Turley boys (and still is for Patrick).

Patrick and his oldest sister, Genevieve, traveled to Ireland in 1986. There he visited the grave sites of his grandparents, found the monastery where his father had studied, discovered his father's birth records and the house of his birth, and visited the church of his dad's baptism. At the monastery, he met elderly Brother Drew who taught school with his father in 1925. "A wonderful sailor he was," said Brother Drew, and told an exciting story of his father skillfully maneuvering a sailboat (with Brother Drew and several others aboard) out of a raging storm.

Patrick grew up in Los Angeles and went to Catholic school in the Crenshaw district. He still visits the parish church once each year, but the neighborhood has changed so much there are few familiar faces. At age 13 his family moved to Whittier. Wanting a college preparatory education, he traveled to Anaheim each day to attend Servite

Right: William James Turley and Margaret Mary McWeeney were married in 1933 and had six children.



Patrick's father (bottom row, second from our left) was in the Irish Christian Brothers Seminary, but fortunately for Patrick, left before taking his final vows.

High School, where he played basketball and participated in the school musical. There was no money for college, so he went to junior college at Fullerton, while working in a clothing store 35 hours a week. After two years, encouraged by a basketball/volleyball scholarship, he decided to attend Whittier College (a small Quaker school).

One day at work, a customer in the clothing store told him about his experiences applying for dental school. This started Patrick thinking about his own future. As a child he had only visited the dentist twice, but in his anthropology class he found the study of skulls and teeth very interesting.

DENTAL EDUCATION

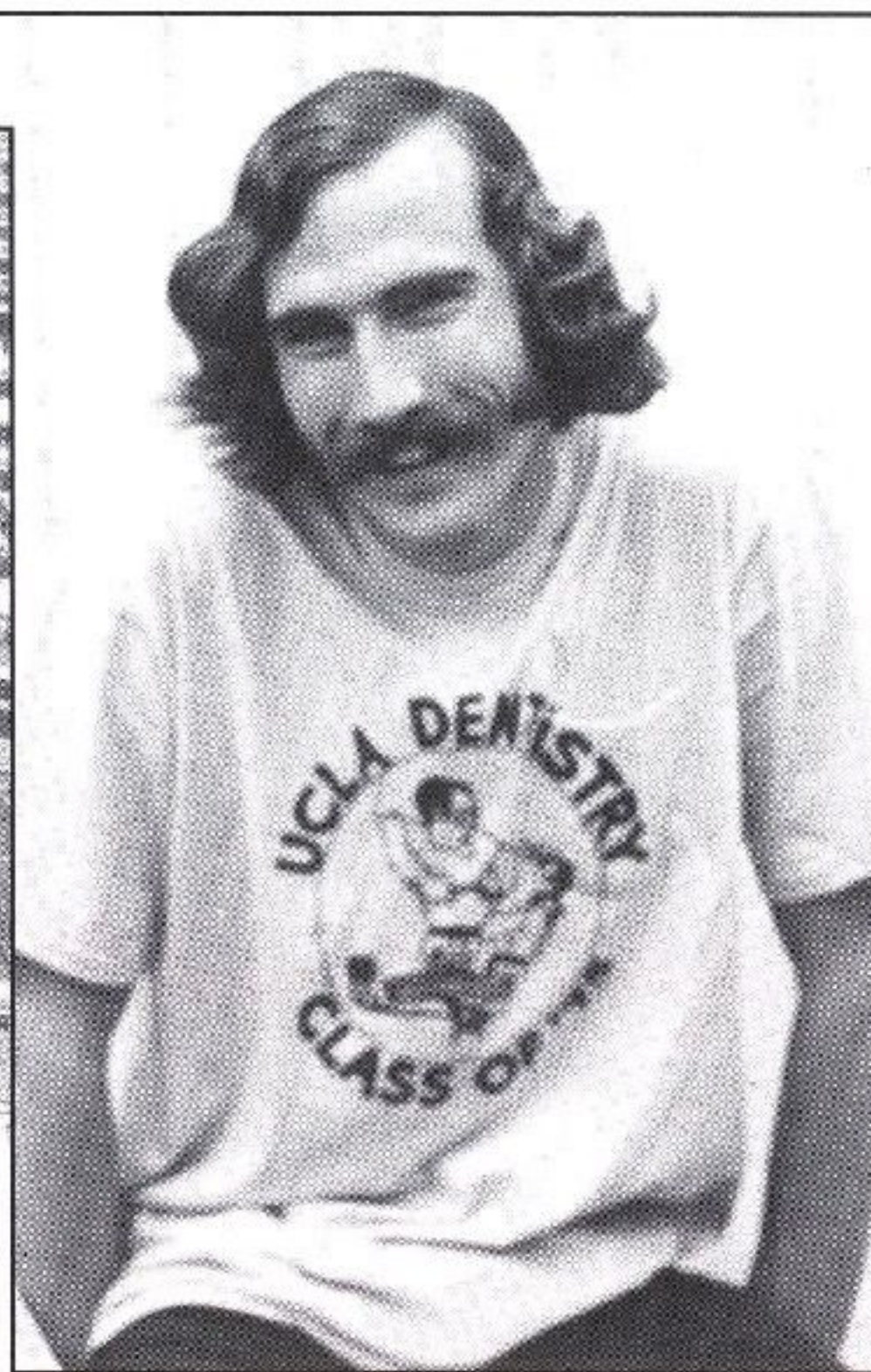
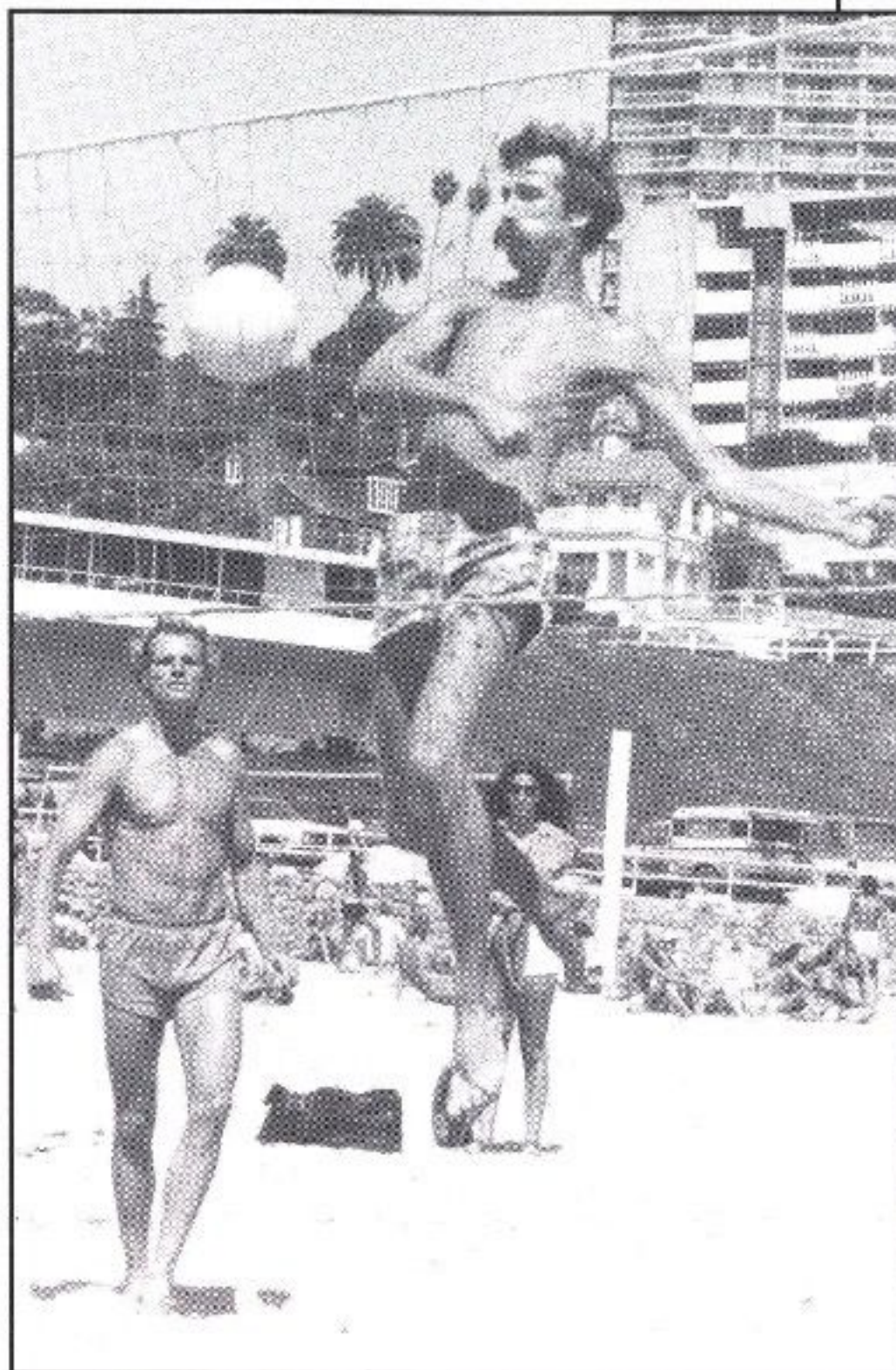
Patrick was wait-listed at UCLA dental school, and accepted at the last minute. The school was fairly new, and then, as now, graded on a pass/fail system. He loved the school. Dr. Turley is of the view that a pass/fail system in a professional school is appropriate and beneficial because the students have already been selected as the finest applicants. Without the pressure of class ranking, many students pursue parallel interests in research or community service. He became involved in research sponsored by Dr. Spiro Chaconas and Dr. Robert Ricketts, using growth forecasting to predict whether patients

would have room for their third molars. He spent a number of evenings at Dr. Ricketts' office.

He was on the fence about graduate studies: Pediatric Dentistry or Orthodontics? One of the pedodontic instructors, Dr. Eric Bystrom, told him about a combined pedo/ortho program at the University of Washington, and he applied for it. Dick Reidel called him and said he was accepted to orthodontics, but had to interview for the combined program. He did so and was accepted. This program ran for three years, and had three graduates: Patrick, Michael Fey, and Bryan Williams. All three are involved in orthodontic academics. UCLA has had a combined program for 16 years, of which Dr. Turley is founder and director.

Dr. Turley comments on the program at the University of Washington. "It was a phenomenal program. The difference was the faculty. I was lucky to have Al Moore, founding chair,

Left: Patrick at the California Beach Volleyball Association two-man tournament. Right: Dr. Turley when he was in dental school.



for his last teaching year. Dick Reidel was chair when I was accepted, and then Don Joondeph (PCSO Trustee-Elect) took over. Bob Little taught cephalometrics and was just beginning work on post-treatment stability research. Peter Shapiro and Vince Kokich directed graduate research but were yet not ready to teach on the clinic floor. They were practicing orthodontists doing University research! Not a common picture these days. Very inspirational. Anatomy was taught by Ben Moffett, and people like Dave Turpin came in a half-day a week to teach. They were there for the right reasons. By personal example, they showed us the road to take."

AFTER GRADUATION

After graduation, Patrick and his classmate Michael Fey traveled to Brazil to give a course on orthodontics. The group could only afford one plane ticket, so Michael and Patrick split the cost of the second ticket. Patrick stayed on

after the course and traveled for four months in several South American countries. His appreciation for the area and the people developed. It was 1979 when he returned to LA looking for a teaching and practice situation to be near the ocean and family. He accepted an invitation to join the UCLA Pediatric Dentistry department for a part-time appointment. Six months later he accepted a full-time position in the Orthodontic Department. He started a literature review course and an early treatment seminar series. He ran a clinic session for mixed dentition treatment, and eventually took charge of the orthognathic surgery section. Patrick says, "I see a real benefit to seeing both very young children and surgery patients.

There's an obvious connection, and one learns a lot about growth and adaptation when observing both ends of the process."

In 1983, a new dental school Dean brought major changes, and Patrick was appointed acting chair for the period 1983 to 1987. He was again appointed to this position in 1992, and became Orthodontic Chair in 1993. Dr. Turley says, "I felt I had the experience, and now the authority, to make some good changes. My goal is excellence. I want our Department to be one of the best in the world. Research and instruction standards must be the highest. We have a diverse and talented faculty who present varied treatment

philosophies to the students. We want the students to have enough information to choose the treatment techniques according to the patient's needs."

"We present a topic of the week, which faculty address in their seminars. Among our clinical faculty are Leroy Vego, Eric Loberg, Ray Lubberts, Joe Gray, Farrel Hinkle, Jim Zahrowski, Ron Wolf, Leon Rossman, Greg Sue, Vicki Okomoto, Arax Avakian, Isaac Hakim, Kathy Nuckles, Nader Dayani, Juliana Panchera, Bob Auger, Alex Yuen, Mario Paz, Matt Nisco, Lisa Angelici, Russell Chang, Joel Brodsky, David Rudolph, Eric Ting, Hong Moon, Jim Mulick, James Duffin, Julian Singer, Barney Hom, Alice Shen, Vacharee Fell and Norman Wahl."

Music

Music was just a part of his life. In high school Patrick appeared on television on the Lloyd Thaxton dance show. On the show, he entered a lip-synch contest, won a guitar and amplifier and taught himself to play. A dancing audition put him on Dick Clark's American Bandstand in Hollywood every week for six months. He had the opportunity to meet many big music names, such as James Brown. But he was never part of a band until he was an orthodontist.

Several years into his academic life, Patrick was asked by a friend to form a performing band. His band still lives; however, now there are nine people. Recently, playing at a talent agent's 50th birthday party, Huey Lewis and James Garner stood up

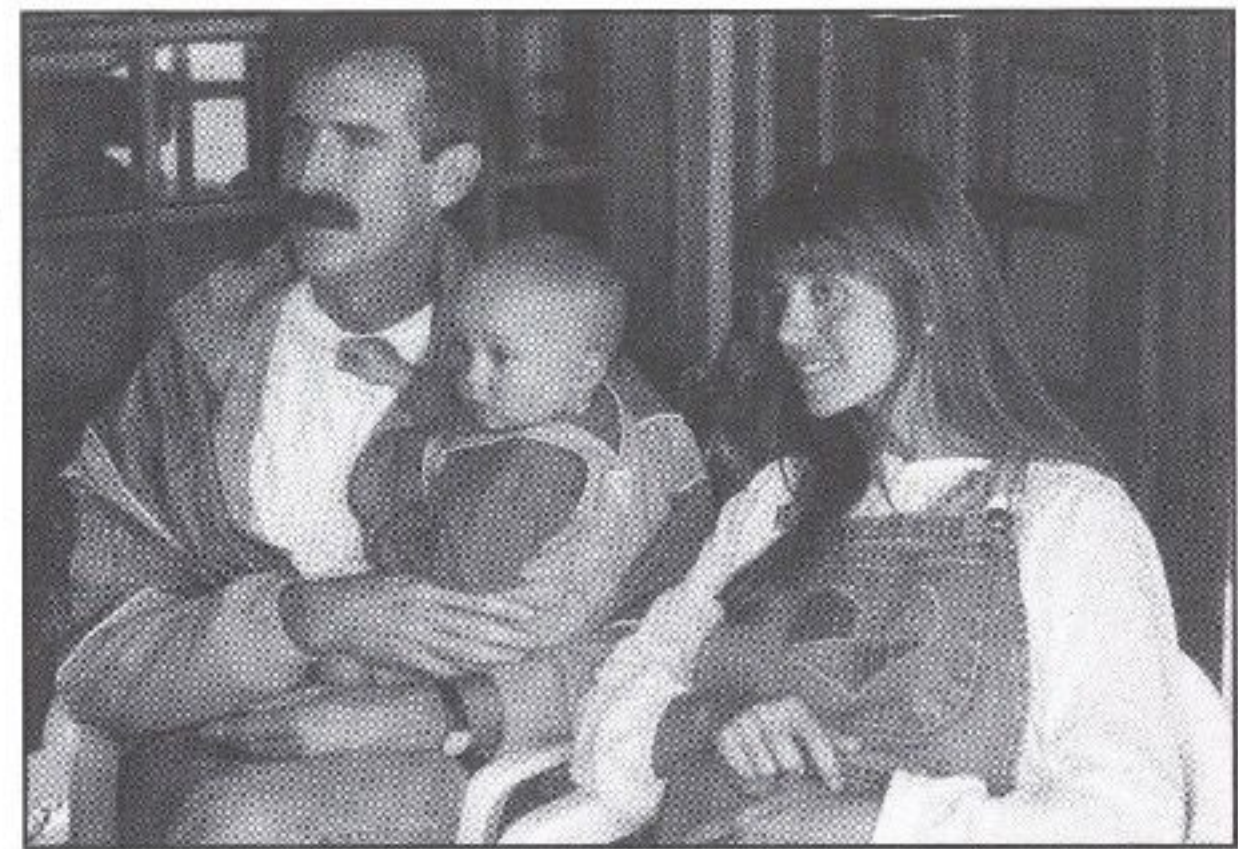
with their band to perform. Patrick has performed at the Unitek party at the AAO Annual Session for the last five years as part of an all-orthodontist band. It all started when Percy Luecke, a San Antonio orthodontist, suggested that he and Patrick ask the band at the Unitek party if they would allow them to sing. It was so well received that Unitek called them the next year and asked for a repeat performance.

SPORTS

Patrick developed a love for the ocean from his sailor father, who each year spent his two week vacation by the beach. While in high school in the mid-'60s, Patrick took up beach volleyball and eventually played at Whittier College. He has been a rated CBVA player since 1979 and in 1991, won the FOVA (Federation for Outdoor Volleyball Associations) North American Championships with his close friend and playing partner, attorney Steve Glass.

PATRICIA

Patricia Elena Nartallo was a Buenos Aires dentist who received her training at the University of Buenos Aires, followed by a pediatric and then a orthodontic residency program. An interest in orthodontics led her to the study of English at U.C. at Santa



Pat, Patricia and Patrick Connor.

Barbara, and then the Tweed Course in Tucson, Ariz. Her Tweed classmates included Emile Rossouw, Chair at the University of Toronto, and Kooji Hanada, Chair at Niigata University. Patricia came to UCLA for a one quarter preceptorship in January, 1991, but Patrick was a little slow and did not realize she was the one for him until her visa was nearing its end and she was headed back home. They started a commuting romance. She applied and was accepted to the pediatric dentistry program at UCLA, and returned to California in June, 1992. They were married in that month — twice! Once in Buenos Aires, and once in Los Angeles.

Patrick gets wistful; "At the age of 41, still single, I was beginning to think that what I was looking for wasn't out there — and then came Patricia. She was the missing link in my life. You think you have a good perspective on things and then you marry and have children. Now I realize what really matters in my life." Patrick Connor is 16 months old, and as

we did the final work on this article, a baby brother, Ryan Nicholas, arrived. Patricia has started a pediatric dental practice in Brentwood, and is also working in a practice in their hometown of Manhattan Beach.

PACIFIC COAST SOCIETY OF ORTHODONTISTS

Two recent PCSO Presidents, Dick Whitwer and Bob Kuhn, asked Patrick to be the Southern Region program chair in 1987. That same year, *Bulletin* editor Dave Turpin asked him to be the Southern Region Editor, which Patrick continued until last year, now succeeded by Andrea Feather. He served two terms as PCSO Director, and is now our PCSO President. He continues as a member of the AAO Council on Education.

Patrick says about his presidency, "Since the PCSO Board restructuring in 1992, the organization has been improving at a rapid pace. Besides keeping present programs going, I am specifically concerned with a continuation of the Strategic plan, expanding the effectiveness of the Executive Director, Phillip Rollins, and recognizing important figures in our organization. I like history. I am curator of a large body of orthodontic history left by Dr. Albin Oppenheim which includes 40 letters from Dr. Angle. I'd like to see some of our hard working members recognized at meetings, and I want to see the PCSO history down in writing. I am part of a committee formed to accomplish this task, with Dr. Norman Wahl as the historian. One of the pieces of this history are Dr.

Wahl's interviews you see published in the *Bulletin*, but there is much more, believe me."

FINAL THOUGHTS

"Keep an open, but critical mind. Think about the underlying biology of your patient. Use treatment strategies that are based on sound concepts that you have been taught.

Give back. We owe a lot to those who have developed our specialty. We stand on their work. We can only move on if we contribute, too. Feel your obligation, and act on it. This will bring you many rewards."

■ Gerald Nelson, Editor